

DEC 16 2008

Application Number 10/533231
Response to the Office Action dated September 17, 2008

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A two-component developer comprising a carrier and a toner containing a binder resin, a colorant, a wax, and an additive,

wherein the carrier comprises a core material whose surface is coated with a resin composition composed of a fluorine-modified silicone resin containing an aminosilane coupling agent, and

the resin composition contains 5 to 40 parts by weight of the aminosilane coupling agent per 100 parts by weight of the resin composition.

the fluorine-modified silicone resin comprises a crosslinkable fluorine-modified silicone resin obtained by reacting a perfluoroalkyl group-containing organosilicon compound in an amount of at least 3 parts by weight and no more than 20 parts by weight with 100 parts by weight of a polyorganosiloxane, and

the wax contained in the toner is at least one wax selected from the following A, B, C or D:

A) a synthetic wax with a DSC endothermic peak temperature of 80 to 120°C and an acid value of 5 to 80 mgKOH/g, obtained by reacting at least a C₄ to C₃₀ long chain alkyl alcohol, an unsaturated polycarboxylic acid or anhydride thereof, and an unsaturated hydrocarbon wax;

B) one type or two types of an ester wax with a DSC endothermic peak temperature of 50 to 120°C, an iodine value of 25 or less, and a saponification value of 30 to 300, selected from the group consisting of a meadowfoam oil derivative, a jojoba oil derivative, Japan wax, beeswax, candelilla wax, montan wax, ceresin wax, and rice wax;

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C) at least one fatty acid amide wax selected from among C₁₆ to C₂₄ aliphatic amide waxes and alkylene bis fatty acid amides of saturated, monounsaturated, or diunsaturated fatty acids; and

D) at least one type of fatty acid ester wax selected from among hydroxystearic acid derivatives, glycerol fatty acid esters, glycol fatty acid esters, and sorbitan fatty acid esters.

2. (Currently Amended) The two-component developer according to Claim 1, wherein the toner is produced by the external addition of at least an inorganic micropowder whose average particle size is from 6 to 120 nm in an amount of 1.0 to 5.5 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of a toner matrix containing the synthetic wax of A-above.

3. (Currently Amended) The two-component developer according to Claim 2, wherein, in the molecular weight distribution of the synthetic wax of A by gel permeation chromatography (GPC), the weight average molecular weight is from 1000 to 6000, the Z average molecular weight is from 1500 to 9000, the ratio of weight average molecular weight to number average molecular weight (weight average molecular weight/number average molecular weight) is from 1.1 to 3.8, the ratio of the Z average molecular weight to the number average molecular weight (Z average molecular weight/number average molecular weight) is from 1.5 to 6.5, and there is at least one molecular weight maximum peak in the region from 1×10^3 to 3×10^4 .

4. (Currently Amended) The two-component developer according to Claim 1, wherein the toner is produced by the external addition of at least an inorganic micropowder whose average particle size is from 6 to 120 nm in an amount of 1.0 to 5.5 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of a toner matrix containing the ester-wax of B above.

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5. (Currently Amended) The two-component developer according to Claim 4, wherein, in the molecular weight distribution of the ~~ester wax~~ of B by gel permeation chromatography (GPC), the number average molecular weight is from 100 to 5000, the weight average molecular weight is from 200 to 10,000, the ratio of weight average molecular weight to number average molecular weight (weight average molecular weight/number average molecular weight) is from 1.01 to 8, the ratio of the Z average molecular weight to the number average molecular weight (Z average molecular weight/number average molecular weight) is from 1.02 to 10, there is at least one molecular weight maximum peak in the region from 5×10^2 to 1×10^4 , and the weight loss on heating at 220°C is no more than 8 wt%.

6. (Currently Amended) The two-component developer according to Claim 1, wherein the toner is produced by the external addition of at least an inorganic micropowder whose average particle size is from 6 to 120 nm in an amount of 1.0 to 5.5 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of a toner matrix containing the fatty acid amide wax of C-~~above~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The two-component developer according to Claim 1, wherein the toner is produced by the external addition of at least an inorganic micropowder whose average particle size is from 6 to 120 nm in an amount of 1.0 to 5.5 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of a toner matrix containing the fatty acid ester wax of D-~~above~~.

8. (Original) The two-component developer according to Claim 1, wherein the toner is produced by the external addition of:

an inorganic micropowder whose average particle size is from 6 to 20 nm and whose ignition loss is from 0.5 to 25 wt% in an amount of 0.5 to 2 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of a toner matrix, and

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an inorganic micropowder whose average particle size is from 30 to 120 nm and whose ignition loss is from 0.1 to 23 wt% in an amount of 0.5 to 3.5 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of a toner matrix.

9. (Original) The two-component developer according to Claim 1, wherein the toner is produced by the external addition of a negatively-chargeable inorganic micropowder whose average particle size is from 6 to 120 nm and whose ignition loss is from 0.5 to 25 wt% in an amount of 0.8 to 4 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of a toner matrix,

and of a positively-chargeable inorganic micropowder whose average particle size is from 6 to 120 nm and whose ignition loss is from 0.5 to 25 wt% in an amount of 0.2 to 1.5 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of a toner matrix.

10. (Original) The two-component developer according to Claim 1, wherein the toner is produced by the external addition of:

a negatively-chargeable inorganic micropowder whose average particle size is from 6 to 20 nm and whose ignition loss is from 0.5 to 25 wt% in an amount of 0.6 to 2 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of toner matrix particles,

a negatively-chargeable inorganic micropowder whose average particle size is from 30 to 120 nm and whose ignition loss is from 0.1 to 23 wt% in an amount of 0.2 to 2.0 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of toner matrix particles, and

a positively-chargeable inorganic micropowder whose average particle size is from 6 to 20 nm and whose ignition loss is from 0.5 to 25 wt% in an amount of 0.2 to 1.5 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of toner matrix particles.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The two-component developer according to Claim 1, wherein the blend proportion of the toner and carrier is such that the toner accounts for at least 2 wt% and no more than 10 wt%, and the carrier for at least 90 wt% and no more than 98 wt%.

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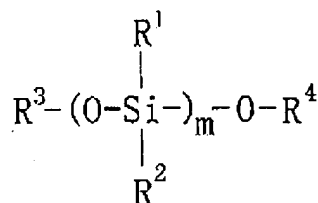
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13. (Original) The two-component developer according to Claim 1, wherein the additive is added in a proportion of at least 1.5 wt% and no more than 6 wt% per 100 parts by weight of toner.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The two-component developer according to Claim 1[[14]], wherein the perfluoroalkyl group-containing organosilicon compound is at least one compound selected from among $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Si}(\text{OCH}_3)_3$, $\text{C}_4\text{F}_9\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)(\text{OCH}_3)_2$, $\text{C}_8\text{F}_{17}\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Si}(\text{OCH}_3)_3$, $\text{C}_8\text{F}_{17}\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Si}(\text{OC}_2\text{H}_5)_3$, and $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CF}(\text{CF}_2)_8\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Si}(\text{OCH}_3)_3$.

16. (Currently Amended) The two-component developer according to Claim 1[[14]], wherein the polyorganosiloxane is at least one type selected from among Chemical Formulas 1 and 2 below:

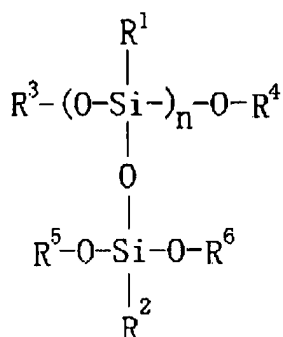


(Chemical Formula 1)

(where R^1 and R^2 are each a hydrogen atom, halogen atom, hydroxy group, methoxy group, or C_1 to C_4 alkyl group or phenyl group, R^3 and R^4 are each a C_1 to C_4 alkyl group or phenyl group, and m is a positive integer indicating the average degree of polymerization)

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(Chemical Formula 2)

(where R^1 and R^2 are each a hydrogen atom, halogen atom, hydroxy group, methoxy group, or C_1 to C_4 alkyl group or phenyl group, R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , and R^6 are each a C_1 to C_4 alkyl group or phenyl group, and n is a positive integer indicating the average degree of polymerization).

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) The two-component developer according to Claim 1, wherein the aminosilane coupling agent is at least one type selected from among γ -(2-aminoethyl)aminopropyltrimethoxysilane, γ -(2-aminoethyl)aminopropylmethyldimethoxysilane, and octadecylmethyl[3-(trimethoxysilyl)propyl] ammonium chloride.

19 - 21. (Cancelled)